

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 EUR-12 L-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 /045 W

----- 118926

R 261423Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7776

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SEDU, WZ

SUBJECT: TROUBLE AT UBLS - LUYENGO CAMPUS

1. FIFTY-SEVEN STUDENTS ARE NOW BEING HELD AT MATSAPHA PRISON AS A RESULT OF STUDENT UNREST WHICH OCCURRED AT LUYENGO (AGRICULTURAL) CAMPUS OF UBLS IN SWAZILAND ON SUNDAY, MARCH 23. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL REPORTS, THE CAUSE OF STUDENT DISSATISFACTION WAS A DECISION BY THE UNIVERSITY TO CEASE PAYING BOOK ALLOWANCES IN CASH.

2. ON SUNDAY NIGHT, MARCH 23, A NUMBER OF STUDENTS BARRICADED BOTH GATES TO THE UNIVERSITY, BLOCKING ALL TRAFFIC. ON MONDAY MORNING, LOCAL DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, ACCOMPANIED BY POLICE WENT TO THE SCENE, TALKED TO THE STUDENTS AND THOUGHT HE HAD PERSUADED THEM TO TAKE DOWN THE BARRICADES. HOWEVER, WHEN ONE GROUP STARTED TO RECONSTRUCT THE ROADBLOCK, POLICE MOVED IN. FIFTY-SEVEN STUDENTS WERE ARRESTED, INCLUDING (FNU) KUBAIKA, A 35-YEAR-OLD BOTSWANA NATIONAL BORN IN SOUTH AFRICA, WHO WAS REPORTEDLY THE STUDENT LEADER. AS OF MORNING MARCH 26, ALL 57 REMAINED IN CUSTODY AND ARE BEING CHARGED UNDER THE UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY ACT. PVC CYRIL ROGERS IS REPORTED TO HAVE ARRIVED IN SWAZILAND TO ATTEMPT

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TO ARRANGE BAIL FOR STUDENTS AND MEDIATE THE DISPUTE.

3. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN SOME MINOR DISTURBANCES AT NEARBY KWALUSENI CAMPUS OF UBLS, SITUATION IS NOW SAID TO BE QUIET AT BOTH CMAPUSES. LUYENGO STUDENTS HAVE BEEN TOLD TO STAY IN THEIR DORMITORIES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

4. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH THIS APPEARS ON THE SURFACE TO BE A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF STUDENT "EFFERVESCENCE" CAUSED BY A PURELY ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUE, GOS AUTHORITIES ACTED PROMPTLY AND VIGOROUSLY TO ASSURE THAT DISTURBANCES DID NOT GET OUT OF HAND. SWAZILAND BROADCASTING SERVICES HAS BEEN TOLD NOT TO REPORT THE STORY AND THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION THUS FAR IN THE MEDIA.

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Message Attributes

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